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[April.]

to be mere persistance in *wrong*. Having made these observations, I pass on.

Had that conduct of mine, which has been misrepresented and calumniated, because not understood, done no other good, yet, from our friend, the Baronet, I learn that it has, at least, produced one happy effect, in having at length aroused from their torpor some of those in the higher classes, to whom my personal persuasions had been in vain addressed. By that very conduct of mine, it seems that the Baronet himself, Mr. WYVILL, and others, had been stimulated, as he says to me, "to promote an association of wealthy reformers, grounding in part the necessity of the *higher* and *middling* classes coming forward to accomplish Reform in a *moderate* manner, lest you and the three hundred thousand step in and perform it in a summary way."

Much, my dear sir, as I differ from the Baronet and yourself on the question of *means*, yet I should have abundant reason to be satisfied with a conduct on my part, which had thus proved but a remote cause of the gentlemen and freeholders of a county, containing as many square leagues of land as the collective republics of ancient Greece, or the modern assemblage of the States of Holland, having been called together to consider of *any propositions whatever*, which are to be submitted to their "deliberation," on the subject of "Parliamentary Reform." That the *hope* of such like consequences resulting from that tour of mine, was one of the actuating *motives* to its having been undertaken, is well known to my confidential friends. I, therefore, trust this consideration may induce you to give me a little more credit in future, for not being altogether blind to the right mode of pursuing "great practical improvements." The attempt which I made, I thought it my *duty* to make. My object was, to call forth all orders and classes indifferently, in pursuit of a right object; and although a very humble private gentleman, with no means whatever of improper influence of any kind, but acting under great discouragements, your own strenuous opposition of the number, I nevertheless *succeeded*. Call you this *rashness*? Impartial history, I trust, will call it by another name. When the nation was under a general fascination, a sort of witchcraft, a spell, spreading around the dastard influence of *despotism*, it was necessary the disgraceful spell should be dissolved. I trust it is now melting into air.

I remain, dear Sir, truly, your friend and servant,

JOHN CARTWRIGHT.
To be continued.

CATHOLIC BOARD.

On the 18th instant, the Deputation of the Catholics of Ireland waited on the late Master of the Rolls with the Address of the Catholic Board. The procession of carriages proceeded from Capel-street, at half past two o'clock. The Address was read by OWEN O'CONOR, of Belanagar: it is the production of Dr. BURKE. After Mr. CURRAN had read his Reply, he invited the Deputation into the adjoining room, where an elegant collation was prepared, and where he conversed individually with the Deputation for nearly half an hour previous to their taking leave. The following are the Address and Answer:

To the Right Honourable
JOHN PHILPOT CURRAN,
Etc. Etc. Etc.

"The General Board of the Catholics of Ireland feel it their duty to address you on your resignation of the high office to which your talents were called, and the duties of which you have discharged with the courtesy of a Gentleman, the abilities of a Lawyer, the dignity of a Judge, and the characteristic integrity which has ever distinguished you.

"Taking a review of a life devoted to the service of your Country, and the cause and interest of public and private Liberty, we shall ever hold in proud and grateful remembrance the energy which you displayed in resisting oppression and defending the rights of the Subject and the Constitution: the independent spirit with which you met the frowns and the seductions of power, the intrepidity with which you vindicated your insulted and maligned Country, and the sacrifices which you made at the shrine of public virtue.

"The freedom and privileges of your profession, so closely connected with those of the Public, you upheld both at the Bar and on the Bench.

"The first flight of your juvenile genius was a noble and generous defence of an obscure but respectable individual against a lawless assault of Tyrranical Power. You have uniformly opposed

that Bigoted, that baneful policy, which impiously tries the principles of Man by his Religious Creed; you have maintained the great and sound principle of Religious Liberty—the proclaimed boast of our Constitution: a just, a liberal, and enlightened mind abhors the pernicious system of excluding from equal rights those who contribute equally to the support of the State with their property and their lives; a system which sacrifices the Liberty of the Country, to protect the Monopoly of a Party, and which, by perpetuating division and discord, saps the foundation of all social intercourse.

" You, sir, and the other illustrious advocates of Irish prosperity, are well aware, that the total extinction of such a system is absolutely essential to the consolidation and permanence of the general strength of the Empire. Permit us, therefore, sir, to indulge our earnest hope, that your splendid talents, emerging from the eclipse of judicial station, and reviving under that name which has attached the hearts of your countrymen, will again be exerted in the service of Ireland."

MR. CURRAN'S ANSWER.

" GENTLEMEN,—Be pleased to accept my warmest acknowledgments for this flattering mark of your approbation and regard. So far as honesty of intention can hold the place of desert, I can indulge even a proud feeling at this proof of your good opinion—because I have no secret consciousness that can blush while I receive it.

" I have early thought, that the mere fact of birth imposes, by the authority of God, a loyalty to Country, binding the conscience of man beyond the force of any technical allegiance, and still more devoted and excusable.

" To our unhappy country I know this sentiment was little better than barren—however, what I had I gave; I might have often sold her, I could not redeem her. I gave her the best sympathies of my heart, sometimes in tears, sometimes in indignation, sometimes in hope, but oftener in despondence.

" I am repaid far beyond my claim; for what reward can be more precious than the confidence and affection of those for whom we could not think any sacrifice too great?

" I am still farther repaid by seeing

that we have arrived at a season that gives us so fair a prospect of better days than we have passed.

" When I view these awful scenes that are daily marking the interposition of Providence in punishment or retribution, that teach rulers to reflect, and nations to hope, I cannot yield to the infidelity of despair, nor bring myself to suppose that we are destined to be an exception to the uniformity of Divine Justice, and that in Ireland alone the ways of God shall not, in his good time, be vindicated to man; but that we are to spend our valour and our blood in assisting to break the chains of every other nation, and in rivetting our own; and that when the most gallant of our countrymen return to us, laden with glory and with shame, we are to behold them dragging about an odious fetter with the cypress and laurel intertwined.

" On the contrary, I feel myself cheered and conciliated by those indications, which inspire the strong hope that the end of our affliction is rapidly advancing, and that we shall soon be placed in a condition where we shall cease to be a reproach to the justice and wisdom of Great Britain.

" The calumnies of our enemies have been refuted, and have left no impression behind them except a generous regret that they could ever have been believed.

" It is with no ordinary feeling of donation and respect that we should hail the awaking of a nation formed to be illustrious, from the trance of a bigotry that cannot be refuted, because it does not reason; that, like every other intoxication, stupefies while it inflames, and evaporates only by sleep. It becomes us to congratulate on the recovery, without retrospect to the time it may have cost.

" Within the short limits even of a year, the spirit of a just and liberal policy has assumed a station that scarcely could be hoped from the growth of ages.

" That wise country has learned to see us as we are, to compare our sufferings with that of our merits and our claims, and to feel that every kind and tender sympathy that speaks to the heart or the head of a man in favour of his fellow-man, is calling upon her to put an end to the paroxysms of that gaol fever, which must for ever ferment and fester in the imprisonment of a nation, and to do it

in a way that shall attach, while it redresses, and bind a blended empire in the bond of equal interest and reciprocal affection.

" We are asking for no restorative; the legislature has none to give. We ask only for what is perfectly in its power to bestow; that debourtrient which may enable the human creature, even by a slow convalescence, to exert the powers of his nature, and give effect by the progression of his happiness and virtue, to the beneficence of that Being who could not have permanently designed him for the sufferings or the vices of a slave.

" In your anxiety for the honour of the bar, I cannot but see an auspicious omen of your near approach to the possession of such a treasure that deserves so high a protection. Short is the time that has passed, since you could not have adverted to that subject without a mixture of shame and anguish; but you now can resort to persons of your own religious persuasion for those great talents for whose purity you are so justly solicitous.

" You are certainly right in thinking the independence of the bar the only unfailing safeguard of justice, and of that liberty without which justice is but a name.

" It is the equal protection of the people against the state, and of the state against the people. If Erskine had lived in

the dark times of the second James, it might have saved his country from the pain of reading the events of those days, when the court could procure a bench, but the subject could not find a bar.

" It is with an emotion difficult to describe, that I see how easily our hearts are betrayed into an exaggerated estimation of those we are disposed to love. You are pleased to bespeak the continuance of my poor efforts in the cause of Ireland, I cannot without regret reflect how feeble they would be; but I am fully consoled in the idea that they would be as unnecessary as inefficient. It is still no more than justice to myself to say, that if any opportunity should occur, and God be pleased to let it be accompanied by health, my most ardent affections would soon find the channel in which they had flowed so long.

" A devoted attachment to our country can never expire but with my last breath. It is a sentiment that has been the companion of my life; and though it may have sometimes led to what you kindly call sacrifices, it has also given me the most invaluable consolation; and even when the scene shall come to a close, I trust that sentiment shall be the last to leave me; and that I shall derive some enjoyment in the reflection that I have been a zealous, though an unprofitable servant."

CORRESPONDENCE ON SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

YOUR antagonist, Crito, still continues to fill the columns of the Belfast News Letter, now the avowed organ and tool of the Orange faction, with his flimsy abuse. His last paper shewed miserably his want of ingenuity in keeping up even the appearance of an argument. His indolence provokes an Antidote to the venom he seeks to instil. Like "the mob of gentlemen who write at easie," he will not condescend to keep to the point on which he first commenced his attack. He probably does not possess much prudence, but he shews his cunning, in abandoning untenable ground. The first matter he brought forward, he now passes over; the censure on the pro-

cession of Orange lodges at the burial of Quail, which had so reasonable a tendency to irritate the public mind, and which caused the disinterment; if the act were really done by any of the opposite party, and if it were not perpetrated by the Orangemen themselves, to afford to them a pretext for accusing their opponents. On the grounds of the procession being a just cause of the first offence, you need not fear a discussion. You have reason and justice on your side. You never defended the act of raising the dead body, but you, with great propriety proclaimed the provocation given by a disgraceful and irritating procession. But disinterring of dead bodies is not such a novelty in Belfast, as may be perceived by a reference to the late proceedings respecting the